

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule comprising a fill material filling a shell, wherein the fill material is in a solid or semi-solid form at room temperature and the fill material comprises a low melting point additive comprising a chocolate base comprising cacao butter, wherein said soft capsule has been subjected to aging for 5 hours to 64 hours at a temperature of 30 to 40 °C so that a major amount of V-type cacao butter crystals and a minor amount of VI-type cacao butter crystals are formed such that the shell and fill material are homogenized with each other; and wherein the soft capsule is a chewable capsule.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 1, wherein the content of the low melting point additive is 10% or more with respect to the total weight of the fill material.

5. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 4, wherein the content of the low melting point additive is 30% or more with respect to the total weight of the fill material.

6. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 5, wherein the content of the low melting point additive is 50% or more with respect to the total weight of the fill material.

7. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to any one of claims 1, 4, 5, or 6, wherein the melting point of the low melting point additive is about 20 to 50°C.

8. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to any one of claims 1, 4, 5, or 6, wherein the low melting point additive further comprises a second ingredient selected from lard, coconut oil, MACROGOL® (polyethylene glycol), or combinations thereof.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 1, wherein the chocolate base further comprises bitter chocolate.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 1, wherein the fill material further comprises a sweetening agent.

13. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 12, wherein the sweetening agent is selected from the group consisting of aspartame, disodium glycyrrhizinate, saccharin sodium, stevia and thaumatin as well as a combination thereof.

14. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 13, wherein the fill material comprises cacao butter and aspartame.

15. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 12, wherein the fill material further comprises a saccharide.

16. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 15, wherein the saccharide is selected from the group consisting of sucrose, D-mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, D-sorbitol, maltose, reduced maltose syrup and maltitol as well as a combination thereof.

17. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 12, wherein the fill material further comprises an aromatic.

18. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 17, wherein the aromatic is chocolate flavor.

19. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 1, wherein the shell comprises the following components (A) and (B):

(A) gelatin; and

(B) one or more plasticizers selected from (b1) to (b3), wherein a total of 100 to 600 weight parts of the plasticizers is present in the shell with respect to 100 weight parts of gelatin:

(b1) glycerin,

(b2) saccharide plasticizer selected from the group consisting of sucrose, fructose, D-mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, D-sorbitol, maltose, reduced maltose syrup, maltitol, sucrose alcohol and isomerized sugar as well as a combination thereof, and

(b3) glycol selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol and polyethylene glycol as well as a combination thereof.

20. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 19, wherein the plasticizers (B) include the glycerin (b1).

21. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 19, wherein the shell further comprises (C) water-insoluble cellulose, wherein 5 to 100 weight parts of water-insoluble cellulose is present in the shell with respect to 100 weight parts of the gelatin.

22. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 19, wherein the shell further comprises (D) a sweetener.

23. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 22, wherein the sweetener (D) is selected from the group consisting of saccharin sodium, stevia and thaumatin as well as a combination thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 1, wherein the fill material comprises a drug.

25. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 24, wherein the content of the drug is 60% or less with respect to the total weight of the fill material.

26. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 25, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of an antipyretic analgesic drug component, a rhinitis drug component, an antitussive expectorant drug component and a vitamin component as well as a combination thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 1, wherein the fill material comprises a food.

28. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft capsule according to claim 1, comprising the step of:
filling the shell with the fill material.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 28, wherein the fill material comprises cacao butter and the method further comprises the step of:
subjecting the fill material filling in the shell to aging at a temperature of 30 to 40 °C.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29, wherein the aging is conducted for 10 hours to 64 hours.

31. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 8, wherein the second ingredient is lard.

32. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 8, wherein the second ingredient is coconut oil.

33. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 8, wherein the second ingredient is MACROGOL® (polyethylene glycol).

34. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to any one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, or 6, wherein the melting point of the low melting point additive is about 20 to 50°C and wherein the low melting point additive further comprises lard, coconut oil, MACROGOL® (polyethylene glycol), or combinations thereof.

35. (Previously Presented) The soft capsule of claim 1, wherein the soft capsule has been subjected to aging for 5 hours to 16 hours at a temperature of about 35°C.

36. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule comprising a fill material filling a shell:

wherein the fill material is in a solid or semi-solid form at room temperature;

wherein the fill material comprises (i) a chocolate base comprising cacao butter and bitter chocolate, and (ii) a drug;

wherein said soft capsule has been subjected to aging for 5 hours to 64 hours at a temperature of 30 to 40 °C so that a major amount of V-type cacao butter crystals and a minor amount of VI-type cacao butter crystals are formed such that the shell and fill material are homogenized with each other; and

wherein the soft capsule is a chewable capsule.

37. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule produced by:
melting a chocolate base comprising cacao butter to produce a fill material;

producing a shell;

filling the shell with the fill material; and

drying the filled material in a drying chamber at a temperature of 30 to 40 °C for 5 hours to 64 hours so that a major amount of V-type cacao butter crystals and a minor amount of VI-type cacao butter crystals are formed such that the shell and fill material are homogenized with each other to produce the soft capsule.

38. (Previously Presented) The soft capsule of claim 37, wherein the filled material has a hardness of no greater than 4.7 kgs.